

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/777,548

Examiner

Jonathan J. Teets

Applicant(s)

IYENGAR, VIJAY S.

Art Unit

2123

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 05/08/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16, 18 and 19.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. The amendment filed 05/08/2007 has been received and considered. Claims 1-16 and 18-19 are presented for examination. Claims 1-16, 18-27 were previously rejected on 02/08/2007 and claim 17 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable in rewritten in independent form.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. **Claims 1-16 and 18-19** are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

While Joseph Glaz and N. Balakrishnan (Scan Statistics and Applications) teach different spatial scan statistics in a general framework that incorporates two-dimensional scan statistics on the plane or on a sphere, as well as three-dimensional scan statistics in space or in space-time, Toyama (Patent No.: US 6,229,918) teaches a system and method for automatically detecting clusters of data points within a data space, Martin Kulldorff and Neville Nagarwalla (Spatial Disease Clusters: Detection and Inference) teach a method of detection an inference for spatial clusters of disease, M Kulldorff and WF Athas and EJ Feurer and BA Miller and CR Key (Evaluating Cluster Alarms: A Space-Time Scan Statistic and Brain Cancer in Los Alamos, New Mexico) teach a space-time scan statistic useful for evaluating space-time cluster alarms and illustrates the method on a recent brain cancer cluster alarm in Los Alamos N.M., none of these references taken either alone or in combination with prior art of record disclose a

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system for detecting clusters in space and time using input data on occurrences of phenomenon and characteristics at a plurality of locations and times comprising:

(claim 1) "a convex container module determining at least one solution corresponding to a selected convex container shape from the plurality of candidate solutions, *wherein the convex container module determines a solution that maximizes a measure representing the equality between the set of points in the given candidate solution and the set of points included in the solution, given the selected convex container shape*"

in combination with the remaining element and features of the claimed invention.

It is for these reasons that the applicant's invention defines of the prior art of record.

Conclusion

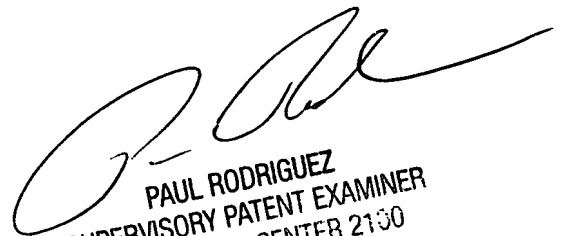
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan J. Teets whose telephone number is (571) 270-1321. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon through Fri, 8:30am - 6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Rodriguez can be reached on (571) 272-3753. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jonathan J Teets
Examiner
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J.T. 06/08/2007



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